



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State & Private
Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-13-11)

Date: January 10, 2014

Subject: 2013 Gypsy Moth Survey

To: Erin Connelly, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

Enclosed is the biological evaluation for gypsy moth population on the Allegheny National Forest for 2014. In the fall of 2013, personnel from the Allegheny National Forest and Northeastern Area, Forest Health Protection, Morgantown Field Office conducted gypsy moth egg mass surveys on the Allegheny National Forest. The purpose of these surveys was to estimate gypsy moth population densities through egg mass counts (1/40th acre plots) and predict spring defoliation levels.

This year thirty-five areas across the forest were surveyed. At this time we recommend that no intervention action be taken. High levels of larval mortality and low egg mass densities at the majority of sites indicate that gypsy moth population in most areas have been reduced and/or collapsed. We acknowledge that there is some uncertainty in our projections, but our estimates currently only predict localized moderate to heavy defoliation in three small localized areas: Cornplanter Bay, Hodge Bay and Hopewell campground areas. The remaining survey areas across the ANF have egg mass densities sufficient to predict background or nuisance levels so a widespread defoliation event is not expected.

We will continue to assist the Forest in: (a) monitoring the extent and severity of this defoliation and (b) performing egg mass surveys in the fall. The results of this work will be the basis for recommending to you the need for any gypsy moth treatments in 2015.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel can assist our efforts through on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high numbers of caterpillars present in the forest in early spring and summer may be a prelude to an expanded defoliation event.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures
Andrea Hille, Forest Silviculturist
TMS/RMT/AKS



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